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US 4987836 A US 4474116 A**

**(58) Field of Search
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(54) Abstract Title

Portable safe/security box with a chain or cable for anchorage

(57) A portable safe or security box having a lockable lid or door (fig 2, not shown) and a loop (6) attached to the box to pass through or around a fixed object to secure the box. At least one end of the loop (6) is releasable from the box to facilitate attachment to the fixed object. The loop (6) may be a flexible chain or cable, where the ends are anchored within the box, possibly by a self-locking pin (13) and secured in the closed position by the lid or door. The lid may have a sliding fitting and is preferably supported on longitudinal rails (3) in the box. An anti-theft device may be incorporated consisting of a warning alarm and/or a smoke or dye-emitting device.

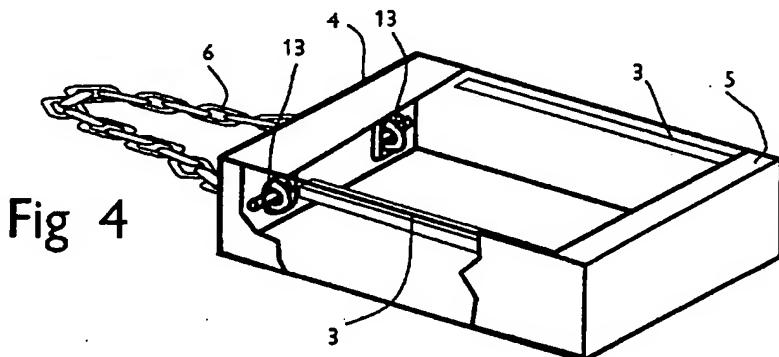


Fig 4

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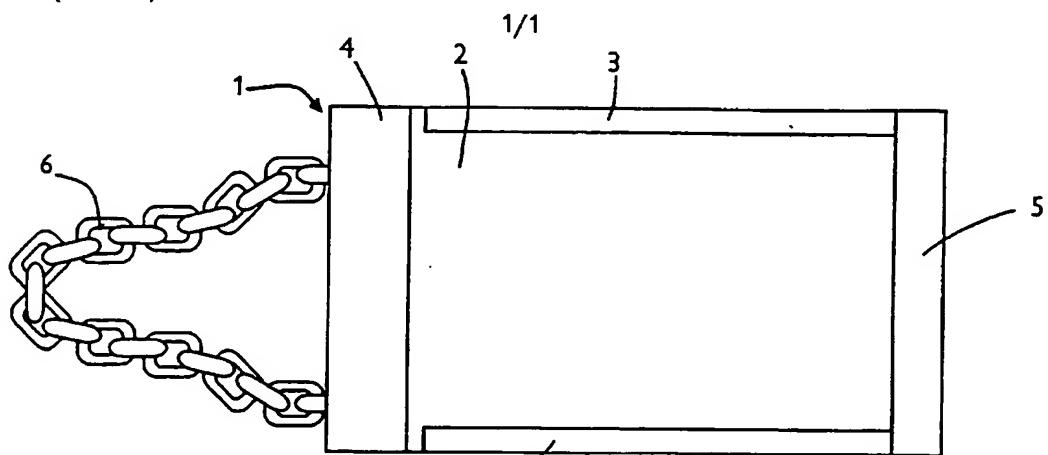


Fig 1

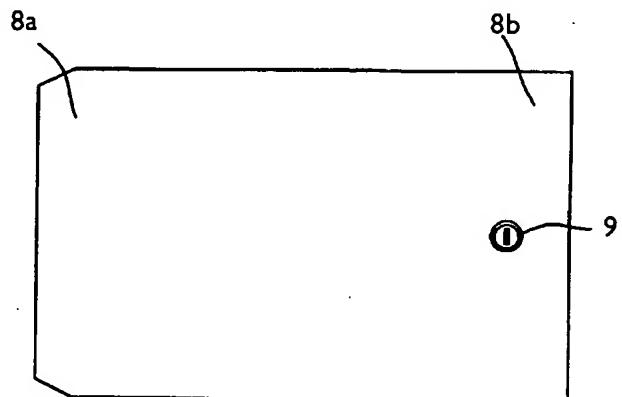


Fig 2

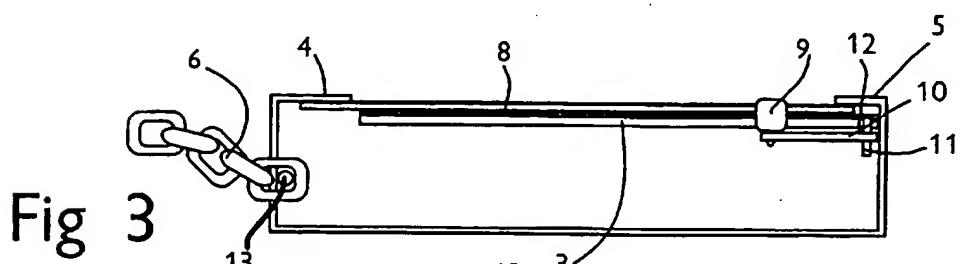


Fig 3

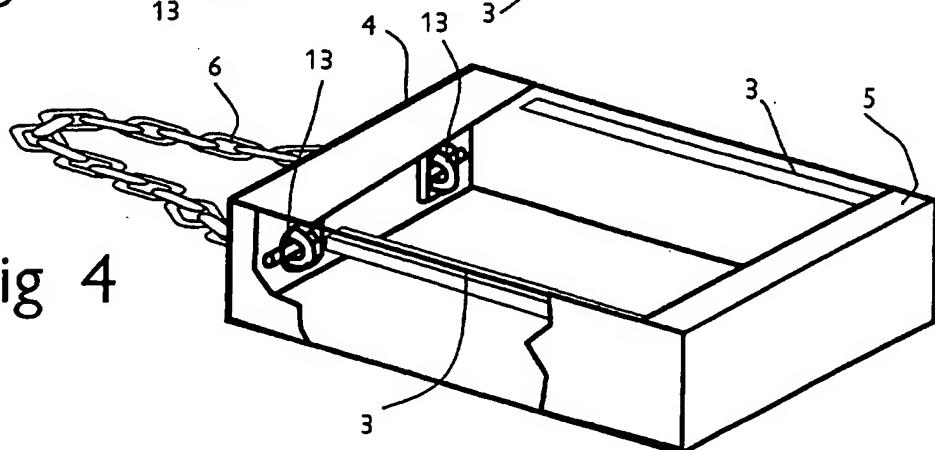


Fig 4

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SECURITY DEVICE**Field of the Invention**

This invention relates to a security device and especially, but not exclusively, to a lockable storage box for use in motor vehicles and the like.

5 Background to the Invention

Theft of portable items such as cameras and mobile telephones, wallets, credit cards and cash is a major hazard when travelling. Leaving items in a car or other motor vehicle, even hidden from view, carries a considerable risk of damage to the vehicle and loss of the items, but carrying all the items on one's person is often impractical, for example when swimming or playing sports or the like. While motor vehicles may provide lockable glove compartments, these are usually not designed to resist attack and are readily forced. They therefore do not present a significant obstacle to a thief. Indeed, they represent yet another object to be damaged by the thief, necessitating costly repair or replacement.

15 Summary of the Invention

The invention provides a security device comprising a box having a lockable lid or door and a loop attached to the box to pass through or around a fixed object to secure the box thereto, at least one end of the loop being releasable from the box to facilitate attachment to the fixed object.

20 Preferably, the loop is secured in the closed position thereof by means of the lockable lid or door. The loop may be rigid or flexible, for example a chain or a stout cable, and the ends of the loop may be anchored within the box. In this way, the use of a separate padlock, which may be more readily attacked, is avoided.

25 The loop may be secured to the supporting frame of a vehicle seat, or to a staple or other anchorage provided within the vehicle, for example in the boot or trunk.

30 The box may be of any convenient size, for example just sufficient to accommodate small items such as cash, a wallet and/or a mobile telephone or camera, or it may be large enough to receive a briefcase or attaché case. It may be located beneath a vehicle seat, for example, if of relatively small dimensions, the loop passing round or through the base frame of the seat. Alternatively, the box may be located on a vehicle seat, with the loop passing downwardly under and through the seat frame.

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The loop may be attached to the box in such a manner as to permit its removal by the user, for example for attachment of a larger or shorter loop for different circumstances. At least one end of the loop may be attached by means of a self-locking pin within the box, projecting through an aperture in the loop. For example, where the 5 loop comprises a chain, one link of the chain may project into the box and the pin may pass through the portion of the link within the box.

The loop is preferably encased within a flexible plastics sheath to prevent it from causing scratches on items to which it is secured. Where a chain is used, it will preferably be of a hardened type to resist efforts to cut it with bolt croppers and the like.

10 The box is preferably formed from metal, for example pressed steel sheet or heavy gauge aluminium, but it may, if desired, be formed of a strong plastics material, for example a glass reinforced plastics material or a composite laminated material incorporating carbon fibre reinforcement, especially where weight is to be kept to a minimum.

15 The lid of the box is preferably a sliding fitting, and more preferably is supported by longitudinal rails within the box to prevent the lid from being pushed or driven into the box by someone seeking to break into the box. The use of a sliding lid also has the advantages of avoiding the use of a hinge or hinges, which represent one point of weakness, and allowing access to the interior of the box when it is located beneath a vehicle 20 seat, for example, without the need to withdraw the box (and first release the loop) to permit hinging of the lid. In addition, with the lid recessed in the box, it is difficult or impossible for an attacker to prise the lid open, and any locking means simply has to prevent the lid from sliding, which can be achieved with a relatively straightforward locking arrangement.

25 The box may incorporate anti-theft devices such as warning alarms and smoke or dye emitting devices, triggered by an attempt to remove or break into the box.

While it is not possible to make anything completely thief proof, the device of the invention will make unauthorised entry to or removal of the box very time consuming, which will act as a considerable deterrent, most thieves relying on speed to 30 avoid detection.

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The device is simple to install and to use, therefore ensuring that it is used regularly to protect readily removable items. Although reference has been made to its use in motor vehicles, it will be appreciated that the device may be used to provide temporary secure storage of items in other locations, for example in a hotel room or rented apartment.

5 Brief Description of the Drawings

In the drawings, which illustrate an exemplary embodiment of the device of the invention;

10 Figure 1 is a top plan view of the box without the lid;
Figure 2 illustrates the lid for the box shown in Figure 1;
Figure 3 is a sectional side elevation on line A-A of Figure 1 with the lid in place;
and

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the box of Figure 1, showing the attachment of the chain.

15 **Detailed Description of the Illustrated Embodiment**

The device comprises a rectangular metal box 1 having a part 2 of one face open. The open part 2 of the face has guide rails 3 along opposed sides thereof, providing a support surface spaced slightly from the upper edge of the sides, and a flange 4 or 5 at each end. The flange 4 at one end is longer than the flange 5 at the other end, 20 and the rails 3 project beneath the shorter flange 5, but stop short of the longer flange 4.

25 A loop of chain 6 is secured to the end of the box 1 at which the longer flange 4 is located, each end of the chain loop 6 passing through a respective close-fitting slot in the end of the box, to be anchored within the box as described hereinafter in more detail with reference to Figure 4. The chain 6 is, however, secured in such a way as to permit at least one end thereof to be readily detached and re-attached once the box has been legitimately opened, enabling it to be passed around and/or through an anchoring structure such as a vehicle seat before being secured again within the box.

30 A lid 8 (Figure 2) is simply in the form of a flat plate, tapered slightly at one end, which fits into the open face 2 of the box and slides on the rails 3 to engage the tapered end 8a under the longer flange 4, and the other end 8b thereof under the shorter